

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-135 are pending in this application.

The Examiner required applicants to elect for prosecution one of the following allegedly patentable distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I, referring to FIG. 5; and

Species II, referring to FIG. 6.

The Examiner stated that currently no claim is generic.

Applicants' Reply to the Office Action

Applicants elect species I without traverse, referring to FIG. 5, for initial substantive examination. At least, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-31, 46-49, 51-57, 59-76, 91-94, 96-102, and 104-121 read on FIG. 5. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-31, 46-49, 51-57, 59-76, 91-94, 96-102, and 104-121, however, may read upon additional figures and portions of the specification not embodied in FIGS. 5. For this reason, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-31, 46-49, 51-57, 59-76, 91-94, 96-102, and 104-121 should be construed in the context of the entire specification as filed -- not just the elected figure.

Applicants' election of FIG. 5 was made to aid the Examiner in conducting a reasonable search -- not to limit


the scope of claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-31, 46-49, 51-57, 59-76, 91-94, 96-102, and 104-121 to the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5. Therefore, applicants will continue to prosecute claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-31, 46-49, 51-57, 59-76, 91-94, 96-102, and 104-121 in light of the entire specification. Applicants have elected a single species, Species I, thereby meeting the requirement of MPEP § 809.

Applicants understand that if a generic claim is allowed, a reasonable number of the non-elected species, and the claims that read thereon, will be rejoined to the application.

Conclusion

Applicants have elected for examination a single species of the claimed invention as required by the Examiner. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Van Court
Reg. No. 48,506
Agent for Applicants
Fish & Neave IP Group
Ropes & Gray LLP
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1105
Tel.: (212) 596-9000
Fax: (212) 596-9090